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## Edward Lear's Shopping List

Maura Stanton

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# Stanton: Edward Lear's Shopping List

## EDWARD LEAR'S SHOPPING LIST

Maura Stanton

*"they dined on mince and slices of quince"*

Never enough cake so he dreamed of quince.  
Words filled his hungry mouth with their sweet taste:  
Shrimps, winkles, pancakes, cucumbers and mince.

The youngest child of twenty, thin as a fence,  
He dug in. Forked up. Nothing went to waste.  
Never enough cake so he dreamed of quince.

Oh Dumplings! Oh Custard Pudding! He could convince  
His stomach with his pen, and so he laced  
Nonsense with periwinkle soup. Hot mince.

Buttercups fried with fish? It made good sense.  
Cold apple tart for breakfast? He wrote in haste.  
Never enough cake so he dreamed of quince

Sliced or jellied. He wanted his loaves dense  
With nuts and sultanas. His stiff hand raced.  
Gooseberry pie. Fresh watercress. Hot mince.

He dined on chops and chocolate like a prince,  
Stuffing his lines with sage and lemon paste  
Never enough cake so he dreamed of quince:  
Shrimps, winkles, pancakes, cucumbers and mince.